

**RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

PRESENT: Gerry Koss – Vice Chairman, John Bulian, James Goldstein, Chris Gerstel, Patty Carey

ABSENT: Dmitry Gorenburg, Ed Olsen

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by John Bulian at the Charles River Room at PSAB. The members welcomed Chris Gerstel, the new representative of the Park and Recreation Commission.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting of November 18, 2015:** Mr. Bulian made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Koss. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2. Project Updates:** Ms. Carey provided an update on the construction progress. The fencing and surfacing are complete, and the cobblestones at the road crossings are done. Safety signs are up and signs using the current set of rules and regulations will be made and installed. They can be changed and updated as needed. The bollards are in place at the street crossings, but need the blue covers installed. Mr. Koss has been on the trail and felt that the surface seemed softer than he expected. Ms. Carey noted it had been compacted, and would feel softer than asphalt, but would harden some after use. Mr. Goldstein asked when the punch list items would be complete. Ms. Carey said they were on-going, weather dependent. Mr. Bulian walked the trail and felt that there was a steep section that should have some safety fencing. Ms. Carey is scheduling a walk with the Town Engineer to look at issues like the safety fencing, so that a determination can be made for use of the final funds. Ms. Carey explained that complaints during construction were minimal. One abutter had concerns during the tree removal process from Eversource, and also about construction noise that likely came from a nearby construction project. An abutter on both sides of the trail is concerned about access to her property, and is working with BCRTA on fencing and looking at possible signs. A resident on Robinwood Avenue is concerned that people will park in front of his home to access the trail. Mr. Goldstein asked to have a discussion at the next meeting about working on approval to get the extension of the trail to Chestnut Street.
- 3. Draft Regulations and Signs:** Ms. Carey shared a draft of a map, created by Town Engineering. Mr. Koss suggested that the trail should be more noticeable and marked as the trail, and that pedestrian entrances be better marked. Mr. Goldstein wondered if the BCRTA logo could be included, and Ms. Carey noted that the Town trails have their own logo to be added. All agreed that the individual trails in the Town Forest not be marked on the map. Ms. Carey suggested having a graphic artist help polish the look of the map. Mr. Gerstel asked about kiosks. Mr. Goldstein noted that discussions were still underway on the type of kiosk, but that the map and regulations could be included when purchased and installed. Ms. Carey said that the Town will look to purchase and install some park benches and picnic tables. Mr. Gerstel asked about trash containers, and Ms. Carey said the initial hope was to have “carry in-carry out” but that it would be re-evaluated as the trail got continued use.

4. **Eversource Transmission Line Tree Work:** The work was completed along the Rail Trail with no major issues. Mr. Gorenburg has contacted Ms. Carey, noting that his property now appears to be a part of the public property, so he is considering placing some nicely worded signs regarding private property. Mr. Goldstein suggested also adding that type of message on some of the distance markers that will eventually be installed.
5. **Election of Chairman:** With the resignation of Mr. Retzky, due to his new position with the Town, a new chairman needs to be chosen. Mr. Koss indicated his willingness to continue as Vice Chairman, and assist a new Chairman. Mr. Bulian nominated Mr. Gerstel as Chairman of the Rail Trail Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Goldstein. Mr. Bulian noted that it seemed logical to have the Chairman be the member of the Park and Recreation Commission. The motion was approved unanimously.
6. **Next Meeting:** Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7:00 PM. Possible topics: Opening Celebration on May 1st, amenities on trail, update on punch list, and extension to Chestnut Street.

Mr. Bulian made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Goldstein. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, Ex-Officio Member